

Clelia 615

Pilot: Don Liberature

Obs 1: Doug Weaver

Obs 2: Jody Berman

Date: 09/02/01

Visibility: 50'

Depth range: 310'

Time: 18:11-20:44

Sebastian 615

Objectives: Evaluation of reefballs and disk sites, Fish Assessment and Coral Sample Collection

Habitat: The Sabastian area surveyed consists of mostly flat bottom with a few rolling ridges/dunes. Small isolated live *Oculina* colonies were spread out over the area. The highest concentration of live *Oculina* was around the last set of reefballs. The entire area seems very desolate until one comes upon the reefball and disk sites. Three reefball sites and two disk sites were observed.

Invertebrates:

- A few hermit crabs (*Anomura*) were spotted on or near reefball sites
- One sea spider (*Pycnogonid*) or arrow crab was observed
- One beautiful large bright green/yellow stalked anemone (*Cerianthid*)
- Abundant smaller stalked anemones in rubble
- Brittle stars (*Ophiuroidea*) were scattered over the whole area as well as the black long-spined urchins (*Diadematidae*)

Human Impacts:

Three reefball sites were observed (B2a, B2c...) All of these sites were very healthy in fish numbers as well as some successful coral transplants.

- The **1st** reefball site was a cluster of 10. At least 3/10 reefballs had live coral growth on the attached transplants.
- At the **2nd** reefball site 3 balls were observed. One was on its side, one had live coral growth and the other had no live coral.
- The **3rd** reefball site was flourishing. It consisted of 25 reefballs. They were situated all along a small ridge area with some rocky outcrops. Isolated pieces of live *Oculina* were scattered throughout the entire area both on the reefballs and on the ridge. There were a few 1' diameter colonies as well as a large possibly 3' diameter colony. Many grouper were in this area.

Two disk sites were observed. Not as many fish species inhabited these areas.

- 25/25 disks were spotted at the 1st site. Only one seemed to have live coral.
- 20/25 were spotted at the 2nd site. Two had possible live coral growth.

Fish:

Overall fish abundance was low for the Sabastian area except for around the reefball sites where there were very healthy numbers of a variety of species including Groupers.

- The Anthiids heavily occupied the reefballs and reefblock area. *Holacanthus bermudensis* were only seen around these areas. One *Holacanthus ciliaris* was also seen.
- The large schools of *Seriola* seemed to be absent on this dive.

Commercially Important Species:

- **12+ *Mycteroperca phenax*** were seen on video. The sub spotted 50+.
The most Scamp occurred on the 3rd reefball cluster. This could have been a possible aggregation site. Most of the Scamp were large with caudal fin exertions and displayed the cats paw pattern. Feeding behavior was observed at least two times. During one instance a Snowy Grouper competed with a Scamp for a squid.
- **4 *Epinephelus niveatus*** were seen on video. The sub notes having seen possibly 20+.
- **1 *Epinephelus drummondhayi***
- **3 *Pagrus pagrus***

Other Species Observed

	<i>Acanthurus</i> sp.		<i>Equetus lanceolatus</i>		<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.
	Anthiinae		<i>Equetus</i> sp.		<i>Plectranthias garrupellus</i>
S	<i>Apogon pseudomaculatus</i>		<i>Equetus umbrosus</i>		<i>Plectrypops retrospinus</i>
	<i>Bodianus pulchellus</i>		<i>Equetus iwamotoi</i>		<i>Pomacetrus</i> sp.
	<i>Centropristis ocyurus</i>		<i>Gymnothorax moringa</i>		<i>Priacanthus arenatus</i>
	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	F	<i>Halichores bathyphilus</i>	F	<i>Pristigenys alta</i>
	<i>Centropristis fuscula</i>		<i>Halichores</i> sp		<i>Rypticus maculatus</i>
F	<i>Chaetodon aya</i>	M	<i>Hemanthias vivanus</i>	F	<i>Scorpaena</i>
	<i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i>	F	<i>Holacanthus bermudensis</i>		<i>Serranus flaviventris</i>
F	<i>Chaetodon sedentarias</i>		<i>Holacanthus ciliaris</i>	M	<i>Serranus phoebe</i>
	<i>Chaetodon</i> sp.	A	<i>Holanthias martinicensis</i>	F	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>
	<i>Chromis cyanea</i>		<i>Holocentrus adscensionis</i>		<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>
	<i>Chromis enchrysurus</i>		<i>Holocentrus</i> sp.	S	<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i>
	<i>Chromis scotti</i>		Labridae		Callionymidae

	Acanthurus sp.		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
	Anthiinae		Equetus sp.		Plectranthias garrupellus
	Decodon puellaris		Liopropoma eukrines		Canthigaster urosticta
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogcocephalus sp.		Canthigaster sp

Good Shots:

1. Weaver tape 3-very beginning around 20:11RT
Multiple large Scamp and a Snowy Grouper get excited as one of them goes after a squid in the water column.
615-1.mpg
615-1.jpg

3chip1

2. 18:30RT...22:08tape
Sand/rubble bottom. The entire site looks like this with the exception of a few small ridges and the reefballs.
615-2.mpg
615-2.jpg

3. 18:42Rt...34:28tape
Speckled Hind and a Scamp mulling around a reefball at the first site visited on this dive.
615-3.mpg
615-3.jpg

4. 18:50RT...43:01
Reefball with live coral growth. There were quite a few Scamp in this area as well as a Queen Angelfish.
615-4.mpg
615-4.jpg

3chip2

5. 19:50 RT...40:44 tape
Close up of a large Scamp at a 25 Reefball site. It seems that the denser the reefball formation the greater the number of grouper in the area will be.
615-5.mpg
615-5.jpg

6. 20:02RT...54:31
Two reefballs out of 25. In front of them is a large 1 meter diameter dead Oculina colony with large pieces of live Oculina on the outer tips. Large male Scamp swims through.
615-6.mpg

615-6.jpg

7. 20:09RT ...01:00tape

Scamp aggregation at large reefball site. Vivid cats paw pattern on 2 large possibly male Scamp.

615-7.mpg

615-7.jpg

